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Description of document: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) memorandum, "Sensitivity of United States Radar Information," 2005

Requested date: 13-August-2011

Released date: 19-September-2011

Posted date: 10-October-2011

Date of document: 02-December-2005

Source of document: FOIA Coordinator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
National Freedom of Information Act Staff, ARC-40  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591  
Fax: (202) 493-5032  
[Online FOIA form](#)

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

**SEP 19 2011**

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 2011-8771**

This letter is in response to your August 13, 2011 FOIA request for a copy of the December 2, 2005 memorandum, "Sensitivity of United States Radar Information" from the Director, Office of Internal Security and Investigations, AIN-1.

A records search was conducted the Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety (ASH) and enclosed is a copy of the memorandum you requested. It is being released to you in its entirety.

There are no fees associated with this request because the cost to process was under \$10.00.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Herron".

Bruce Herron  
Director, Office of Security

Enclosure



# Federal Aviation Administration

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## Memorandum

Date: DEC 2, 2005

To: Acting Director, ATC Spectrum Engineering Services, Mailstop AJW-6

From: Director, Office of Internal Security and Investigations, AIN-1

Prepared by: Internal Security Policy Division, AIN-200

Subject: Sensitivity of United States Radar System Information

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Your e-mail of November 9, 2005 asked for recommendations and guidance on

1. The suitable sensitive unclassified information (SUI) label for your database of United States radar systems and microwave links.
2. Background checks or security clearances for access to this information.
3. Proper labeling and handling of SUI and Sensitive Security Information (SSI).
4. Contracting language and nondisclosure agreements for people who need access to this information.
5. Justification to withhold this information if someone requests it through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Your e-mail stated the database information:

1. Is not normally available to the public;
2. Contains information such as the locations of all United States radar systems and microwave links that send radar information; and
3. Provides information that a criminal or terrorist could use to spot weak links in national surveillance capabilities and to find radar sites to disrupt or destroy the vital services and security measures they provide.

Based on your description of the database and by Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 15.5(b), it's proper to label database information SSI because

1. The database lists physical assets vital to the aviation transportation system;
2. Destruction or incapacity of these assets would have a debilitating impact on transportation security; and
3. Criminals or terrorists could use database information to evade surveillance, an aviation security measure.

On your other requests:

1. FAA Order 1600.75, Chapter 3 has guidance for marking and handling SSI.
2. FAA Order 1600.75, Chapter 2 has guidance for access to SSI. A person does not need a security clearance for access to SSI. FAA employees and contractors must have a favorably adjudicated National Agency Check with Written Inquiries (NACI) for access.
3. For details on writing security clauses, go to the Contract Writing Toolbox in the FAA Acquisition Toolset at <http://fast.faa.gov>. We can help you craft a nondisclosure agreement.
4. FOIA exemptions High 2 and 3 are suitable exemptions to cite if you get an FOIA request for database information. See FAA Order 1270.1 and Paragraph 9, Chapter 1, FAA Order 1600.75 for guidance on handling FOIA requests for SSI.

Our point of contact for this memorandum is John McCarthy, 202-493-5423.